[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

III.—STATEMENT OF THE HON. THE CHIEF MINISTER *RE* HIS PROPOSED RESIGNATION.

* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to put my strength to trial this morning, but seeing what has appeared in the newspapers I thought it my duty to appear here so that the facts may be made clear where they have been clouded. The items that have appeared in the newspapers vary. But on the whole, I have to regretfully say that they are half-truths and half-fictions which it is very difficult to explain without giving rise to more difficulties. They are somewhat like this; it was reported that Mr. John, a fictitious person had died, while he was still talking to his doctors. As a matter of fact he might die in the afternoon and any contradiction in between would look absurd of the end of it. The position is somewhat like that now. I may say for the information of the hon. Members that ever since I fell ill this time, I have been thinking of relieving myself. It is not like a rabbit I can produce out of the hat or a cat that I can produce out of the bag. The matter must be decided upon and then only it becomes an event. Unfortunately, the newspapers whose profession it is to gather news, have so to say, shown an undue and an almost indecent desire for an interesting event to happen. It is only when an event happens that they can get news about it. I can categorically inform you, so that hon. Members may have no doubt in the matter, that I have not yet written to Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, whether in his capacity as President of the Indian National Congress or in his capacity as the Prime Minister of India, to relieve me. I have not yet written to him, because Sir, I have not yet prepared the ground for writing to him. But it has been said that I have written to him and that he has replied to such and such effect and so on. All that is incorrect. It is stated that I have offered to be relieved. I have not yet had a chance to meet the party whose leader I am and I can offer it to nobody else. I am going to meet the party and I am going to discuss matters with them. Till then no one can take it that I have done anything already. I have not decided as to how I should be relieved. But one thing is clear. Now that I have begun to say about it, I may mention that I really wish to be relieved on account of my physical condition. It is not easy for a man at my age to overcome illnesses quickly or expect to overcome them repeatedly. I do wish to be relieved and I must make the best arrangement possible. In the interval, I hope no credence will be given to the details that have been published in the newspapers. Partly they are true, because they express my wish; partly they are not true as they go beyond the facts. That is the position. Hon. Members will in course of time hear exactly what is going to happen. I have to consult the party. I have to consult the leader of the Congress at headquarters. I have to consult the Prime Minister. All that has to be done before I can hope to be relieved. That is the position, to-day, Sir."